

The SAVIOUR with his
RAINBOW.

A
DISCOURSE
Concerning the
COVENANT

WHICH
GOD will remember, in the
Times of Danger passing
over his Church.

By COTTON MATHER, D.D.



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T O
Mr. Thomas Vennor
of Warwick.

S I R,

I Do, at your Request, furnish you with
a Copy of a Sermon which my Bro-
ther preach'd and publish'd in New-
England. Your Design of Re-printing it,
is, in my Opinion, worthy to be encourag'd.
I do hope the great Ends of God's Glory,
the Honour of Jesus Christ, and the Good
of his Church, will be promoted hereby.

I am, Sir,

Your Servant,

Nov. 10. 1713.

SAM. MATHER.

TO
Mr. Thomas Vernon
of Warwick

SIR,
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a Copy of a Sermon which my Pro-
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I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

Nov. 10. 1713.

SAM. MATHER.

The SAVIOUR with his *Rainbow.*

REVEL. X. 1.

A Rainbow was upon his Head.

IT is the *Head* of your admirable Saviour, which, O distressed People of God, now appears before you. Oh! behold it, with sweet Encouragements; with just Astonishments! The *Head* about which we now see the comfortable *Rainbow*, is *thy Head*, O thou Church of the Living God; it is he, whom God has placed as *thy Head*, and thou thy self hast chosen him, hast owned him.

When you see what it is that this *Mighty Angel* comes down from Heaven to do; that he comes with a loud Voice to proclaim the End of the *Time* for the Reign of Sin and Satan in the World, and make a Demand of this Lower World, for the Kingdom of the Great Redeemer; how, how, can you forbear a loud Voice of Supplications; *Great God, send this mighty Angel down among us!*

The Servant of God had seen the Fate of the *Roman Empire*, down as low as the conclusion of the *Saracen Oppressions*, and the *Turkish Hostilities*; the very Period unto which we are now certainly arriv'd. Then there appears unto him a *mighty Angel*, in so
stately

stately and so splendid a Pomp, that many Interpreters can hardly allow him to be any less a Person than our great *Saviour* himself. He appears to exhibit a *new Scene* of things Marvellous and very Amazing. And if this be the Period for the Appearance of such an Angel, I do a very *seasonable* thing this Day, in showing him among you. I dispute not, whether this *Angel* be our *Saviour* himself, because he descends with a *Glory* too big and bright for any Creature; or, whether he be a *created Angel*: for, if he be so, yet he comes in the name of our *Saviour*; and he comes with a Representation of that *Glory*, which belongs to none but our *Saviour*.

The Design of the Descent made by this *Mighty Angel*, is, to foretel, and bring on, a wonderful *Reformation* of the World. If he appears in a *Cloud*, this must not be wondred at. There is a Super-celestial *Cloud*, which from the Beginning has been employ'd as a *Symbol*, and a *Cover* for the Majesty of our God, in his Appearance. Not only the *Israelites*, who were favour'd sometimes with an actual view of something that belong'd unto that vast *Cloud*; but even the *Pagans* also, and their *Poets*, had some Tradition of it.

There is an Intimation in it, that there will be *unsearchable* Circumstances, *unsearchable* Dispensations in his Appearances. And if thou wilt come unto us in *cloudy Times*, O glorious Lord, Thy Will be done: yea, *Even so come unto us!*

The only thing that we now single out for consideration, is that particular *Glory* of our Appearing *Saviour*; A *Rainbow* was upon his Head. The *Rainbow* is a well known *Meteor*, often beheld, but not with Eyes devout enough among us, in the *Day of Rain*. Perhaps, there is nothing in all the *meteorous Kingdom* so very Beautiful. Such is the *Beauty* of the *Meteor*, that while the Heathen *Mythology* made it *The Daughter of Wonderment*, *Ticero* makes it a matter of Wonderment that it was not lifted in the number of their Gods. Let those declaim on this *Beauty*, who can fetch a Text from the Son of *Sirach*; that says, *Look on the Rainbow, and Praise him that made it; very Beautiful it is in the Brightness thereof.* That which it becomes us most of all to ponder, is, That the Sovereign Creator of the World has, in his Wisdom,

+ stamp'd

stamp'd a *Sacramental Character* on the *Rainbow*; he has Instituted the *Rainbow* for a *Sign*, and *Seal* of his *Covenant* with the *World*. All *Christians* are apprised of the *Signification* which the *ninth Chapter of Genesis* has left upon the *Rainbow*, for our perpetual *Consolation*; and as our *Affurance*, that the *World* shall no more be *drowned* as it was in the *Days of Noah*. Wherefore our *Saviour* appearing to us, with a *Rainbow* about his *Head*, proposes to preach this joyful *Doctrine* unto us:

Our glorious LORD will remember his Covenant with his People, even in the most cloudy Times that are passing over them.

And this is the *Doctrine* which I am now to insist upon; I wish you had a more able *Barnabas* to insist upon it. My *Doctrine*, may it drop as the *Rain*; as the sweet and small *Rain* from a *Cloud*, that has a *Rainbow* brightning of it. We may see *Cloudy Times*; yea, we may apprehend such a *Flood* of *Calamity*, as will carry all before it: yet now, O *People of God*, you are a *People in Covenant* with him; a *Reliance* on your *sacrific'd Saviour*, secures your *Title* to his *Covenant*. O now look up to your dear *Saviour*! see, he appears to you in your *Cloudy Times*, with a *Rainbow* about his *Head*. He declares unto you, that he will remember his *Covenant*; he has not forgotten to be *gracious*: you shall not be *overwhelm'd*; the evil things, which threaten you, shall not be too hard for you: you shall, you shall be gloriously deliver'd.

I. In the first place, I will shew the *Rainbow* about the *Head* of a *Saviour*, unto every particular *Believer* on that faithful *Saviour*. My *Friend*, apply the glorious *Rainbow* to thy own particular *Condition*; thy *Saviour* invites thee to do so. I will venture to lay this down, as a *Rule of Application*; "The *Promises* which belong to the whole *Church of God*, are the *Portion* of every particular *Believer*, and he is welcome to make use of them, as far as ever he can find his own *case* adapted in them." According to this *Golden Rule* of *Faith*, and of *Fellowship*, I now say; *Believer*, Dost thou

thou not see *Cloudy Times* ? I know, thou dost : There is no Believer, but what has his Times of *Darkness* ; no Child of *Light*, but what sometimes walks in *Darkness*, and sees no *Light*. 'Tis often, often the Case of every Believer : *Lament. 3. 1, 2. I am the Man that hath seen Affliction ; he hath brought me into Darkness. He cannot understand the meaning of the Divine Dealings with him ; he cannot see the Face of God favourably shining on him ; he cannot but fear a sad Issue of the things which are breaking of him. His Temptations make it the Hour and Power of Darkness with him. He knows not what to do, nor what God intends to do : perhaps it comes to that Extremity ; Lord, thou hast covered thy self with a Cloud, that my Prayer should not pass through. In so dark a time, the afflicted Believer is afraid of a Flood that will totally over-power him, that he shall perish in his Affliction.*

But now, *Comfort ye, Comfort ye my Children*, saith the Lord. Show my *Rainbow* unto them ; tell them, that I will be ever mindful of my *Covenant*. The Children of God may be sure, that in Remembrance of his *Covenant* with them, he will save them from the *Floods* which threaten Destruction to them : only, my Brethren, be sure that you remember one Direction ; *Psal. 32. 6. For this shall every one that is godly, pray unto thee, in a time when thou mayst be found : surely in the Floods of great Waters, they shall not come nigh unto him.* [One has thus given us the true sense of it : *For this shall every good Man pray, when thou art to be found ; and shall be safe in mighty Floods, when other Men are drown'd.*] I will first of all show you what the *Comforts* are, that may delight and support your Souls, and keep you from sinking in the multitude of your *Thoughts* within you : The *Comforts* to be read in this *Rainbow* on the Head of your lovely Saviour.

First, Have you a *Flood* of *Adversity* beating on you ? Perhaps you may suffer a vast weight of *Adversity*, troublesome Occurrences, innumerable, irresistible. The roaring Billows of *Adversity* rolling in upon you, may make you cry out, *Save me, O God, for the Waters are come in unto my Soul, I am come into deep Waters, where the Floods overflow me.* Hear the Answer from the *Rainbow* : Ah, thou afflicted and tofs'd with Tempest ; be thou comforted ; thy Lord will step in and save thee. He will fulfil that

Promise

Promise of his Covenant unto thee, Isa. 43. 2. *When thou passest thro the Waters, I will be with thee, they shall not overflow thee.*

Again; Does a Flood of Corruption rise in your Souls? Perhaps, the Power of Corruption in you may be such, that you may think, *I shall one Day perish by the Hand of such or such a Sin!* Lust may so prevail against Grace, that you can see no hope of Grace ever getting the upper-hand. O Soul, mourning because of the Oppression of an Adversary that provoketh thee sore; mourn on, mourn on; and then know, that the Spirit of God will dry up those cursed Waters. Tho thy Grace be but a Spark, yet many Waters shall not quench it, neither the Floods drown it. Thy Saviour will fulfil unto thee that Promise of his Covenant; Rom. 6. 14. *Sin shall not have Dominion over you.*

Furthermore, in the Assaults of Hell upon your Souls; does the Enemy come in like a Flood upon you? It may be, the Powers of Darkness are pouring in upon you. Your tempted Souls are exceedingly born down, disorder'd with hideous Injections, terrify'd at the Noise of the Water-spouts; yet, O molested Christian, that Saviour hath set Bars to the Tempter, and said, *Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further, and here shall thy proud Waves be staid.* That Promise of his Covenant shall be fulfill'd unto thee, 1 Cor. 10. 13. *God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above what you are able.*

Once more, we read concerning the Floods of the Ungodly. Sometimes the Servants of God are uneasy at the Power, the Number, the Malice of Men that are disaffected unto them. If they are engag'd in more notable Services for God, they may be expos'd unto the Rage of wicked and restless Men; which may make them afraid, lest their Serviceableness be utterly extinguish'd. There may be Times wherein Hell may be evidently and furiously broke loose upon them. The foaming Waves of Hell may dash, and beat against them, and make a noise that reaches up to Heaven: Times when the Workers of Iniquity do, as it were, make an Insurrection, and bend their Bows to shoot their Arrows, even bitter Words. How accommodated a Rainbow for such Times! What is the way, which, O Lord, thou knowest thy Servants use to take, in such Storms as these! They repair humbly, with Repen-

tance, with Prayers, and with Tears, to their compassionate Saviour. All their Opportunities to do Good, they put into his gracious Hands. Lo then, then! they see the Rainbow about the Head of their strong Friend in the Heavens concerned for them. He sends this Advice unto them, and the Promise is fulfill'd unto the Surprise of all wise observers; *Isa. 41. 10, 11. Fear thou not, for I am with thee; Behold all they that were incensed against thee, shall be ashamed and confounded.* This, this was the antient Experience; *The Floods of ungodly Men made me afraid. In my Distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God. He drew me out of many Waters; he deliver'd me from them which hated me!*

Finally; The Fate of Mankind, under the Law of Mortality, is thus describ'd unto us; *Psal. 90. 5. Thou carriest them away as with a Flood.* Believer, thou also must, in thy Father's time for it, be carried away. Death, Death is unavoidable. But thy Head is always above Water; thou shalt not always lie among the Dead. The quickning Spirit of that Head will fetch out of the Grave, all that belong unto him. When the black Waters of Death have compass'd thee about, and the Depth has clos'd thee round about, and thou art gone down to the bottom of the Mountains; thou shalt not have cause to complain. *The Earth with its Bars is about me for ever!* No, thou wilt bring up our Life from Corruption; we know it, we know it, O Lord our God. Ah, dying Believer; thy Saviour who was once dead, is risen from the Dead. On the Rainbow about his Head, O read what is written; *Behold, I am alive, and I live for evermore. Because I live, thou shalt also live.* Heaven, that high Seat of the Rainbow, yea, an higher Heaven shall be the Seat of the rais'd Believer too. The risen Saviour will infallibly raise the Believer. Child of God, thy Sin has wash'd thee over-board. O cruel Wave! it lays thee in the Deeps. But the Hand of thy kind Saviour will take thee up; — will pull thee up, and show Wonders to the Dead; — thou shalt Rise, and Praise him! *

* Quickly after the Preaching of this Sermon, there died a Person of shining Piety, a Christian of uncommon Holiness, Devotion, Patience,

I will go on, and show you, *Secondly*, Some special *Seasons*, wherein you will do exceeding well, to make use of these Comforts. And there are especially *two* such *Seasons*, that I will commend unto you. I shall sensibly serve the Cause of Piety, by commending of them.

First, On the sight of the *natural Rainbow*, these comfortable Meditations on the *Covenant* of God, and of Grace, will be very seasonable. It is a real *Fault* in the People of God, that they can be Spectators of the *Rainbow*, with no more proper, holy, heavenly Thoughts, produc'd in their Souls; a very faulty *Unthankfulness* to our Great Saviour, who has plac'd it as his *Bow* in the *Clouds*, and said unto us, *O my dear People, Do you look upon that, as a Memorial of my Covenant!* The Gospel of the *Rainbow*, is truly one of the *Desiderata*, among the Subjects that should be cultivated in the Church of God. At present, I will only say; the *Covenant* with our Father *Noah*, whereof we have the *Rainbow* for an Obligation, had such an Aspect upon the *Messiah*, that we may fairly be led by the *Rainbow*, to remember the whole *Covenant of Grace*, in all the *very great and precious Promises* of it. Concerning the *Covenant* which God has made with our Saviour, for the Redemption of his People, we read, *Psal. 89. 37. It shall be establish'd, as the faithful Witness in Heaven.* By the *faithful Witness in Heaven*, is meant the *Rainbow*. Well then; when we have that *comely Work* of God before our Eyes, let us entertain such Thoughts as these: "May a glorious **CHRIST** be my Saviour, and my Surety; how Happy, how Happy am I! My Sins will be cast into the *Depths of the Sea*; I shall not my self be cast thither for them. O my Soul! be not thou cast down. Be not afraid of all thy Sorrows; thy Lord will not leave thee to sink in any of thy Sorrows. Tho the Grave do swallow me up, Oh!

tience, and Humility, Mrs. *Abigail Whippo*; gloriously triumphing over Death. God marvelously bless'd this Sermon, to produce and assist the Triumphs of her Soul. With Rapture she gave Thanks to Heaven for these Consolations; saying, *O the dear Saviour, that I am now to see with a RAINBOW about his Head! I am sure he will remember the Covenant, which he has help'd me a thousand times to lay hold upon! I am sure he will do me Good, according to his Covenant! I do with Pleasure answer the Desire of some, to preserve the Memory of such a Christian.*

“ let me not fear to go down into the Grave ; my Lord
 “ will bring me up again ! I see a faithful Witness in Heaven,
 “ that puts me in mind of an Establish’d Covenant for
 “ such Blessings of Goodness.”

Secondly, When we see the *Baptism* of the Lord administered, these Meditations may be very seasonably awaken’d. It is no small Advantage to be minded of the *Covenant*, which our God has made with our JESUS for us, and with us, in our JESUS. We are minded of this *Covenant* after an excellent manner, by the Administration of *Baptism* in our Congregations. God sanctifies the sight of this Administration, as well as the other *Ordinances* in the Assemblies of Zion ; and it is a profane Folly to make light of a thing which God uses for an *Instrument* of so much Good unto the Souls of Men. As in any sprinkled Water, the Light easily causes a sort of a *Rainbow*, so in the *Baptismal Water*, we see the *Rainbow* about our Saviour ; he there and thence calls to the Beholders, *O my People, I will be ever mindful of my Covenant !* Let our glad Souls be sensible of this. I mention it the rather, because I find, 1 Pet. 3.19. *Baptism* is made the Antitype of the *Flood*, unto which the *Rainbow* has relation. The *old Man* in us, is like the *old World* ; under a Curse. The *Blood* of our Saviour washing away the Guilt of our Sin ; and the *Spirit* of our Saviour taking away the Life of our Sin ; are both of ’em compar’d unto *Waters*. By these *Waters*, the *Old Man* is destroy’d in our Souls, as the *Old World* was by the *Flood*. The *New Man*, like *Noah* in the *Ark*, is by these *Waters* rais’d up, and brought nearer to God. In this way ’tis, that the Blessings of the *Covenant* become our Portion. Sirs, when you see a Person baptiz’d in our Congregations, then think ! “ O that blessed *Covenant* ! according to that
 “ only my Sin shall be drowned ; but I my self shall be
 “ rais’d unto the nearest Communion with Heaven. Yea,
 “ a Resurrection from the Dead will be bestow’d upon me ! ”

But thus I leave every particular Believer to his own Meditations, on his own share in the *Covenant* of God.

II. I am now to tell you, what a Messenger [excuse and indulge me if I make Reprisals of the Term, a Messenger] of happy Tidings, the *Rainbow* about the Head

of the Saviour, is unto the Church in general, unto the whole Church of the Living God upon Earth.

The Covenant of God, for the Continuance of his Church in this World, and its Fruition of Blessedness in a New World; this was included in the Covenant made with our Patriarch after the Flood. Our holy God never gave the Rainbow for a Token, that he would preserve a World, only to be a Rendezvous of Traitors and Rebels: a Field for none but wicked People to graze upon. The preservation of the World is, that so our Saviour may have an Elect People here prepared for him, and that anon there may come on a Revolution, wherein the whole Earth shall be fill'd with that People, and his Kingdom. You should read this glorious thing written on the Rainbow with Capitals! And hence this Covenant of God is engross'd in those Terms; *Isa. 54. 9, 10. This is as the Waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn, that the Waters of Noah should no more go over the Earth, so — my Kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the Covenant of my Peace be remov'd, saith the Lord, that hath Mercy on thee.* We are fallen into Cloudy Times; and, the Floods have lifted up, O Lord, the Floods have lifted up their Voice, the Floods lift up their Waves: But we have a Lord with a Rainbow about his Head; and this our Lord is mightier than the mighty Waves of the Sea.

O People of God, and you that have Jerusalem coming into your Minds; look up, look up, see a Rainbow about the Head of your Saviour; and hear that ravishing Voice come out of his Mouth, *I will take a sufficient Care of my Church in the World. My Covenant for my Church, there shall be no breaking, no failing of it!*

And is not this the meaning of that Exhibition? *Rev. 4. 3. There was a Rainbow round about the Throne.* Our JESUS is enthroned in the Heavens; the Scepter of God is in his Hands; but he will so manage every thing, that his Covenant for the Preservation of his Church in the World, shall be most punctually accomplish'd.

First, I will give you some Reasons why the Rainbow about the Head of our Saviour, will not prove an empty Show; but he will fulfil to his Church, the Covenant of his Mercy. 'Tis for such Reasons as these.

1. The

1. The Blessed God, is a most Faithful God, the God of Truth. Oh! let our God be true, in our Praises of him, and every Man a Liar, that has the least Murmur of his being any other. In the midst of our deepest Lamentations, we must own that thing; Lament, 3. 23. Great is thy Faithfulness. He is the Unchangeable one, He makes a Covenant, and he changes not; therefore the Church to be preserv'd, according to his Covenant, shall not be consum'd. His Nature, and his Glory, is that, Psal. 3. 4, 5. The Lord is Gracious and full of Compassion; he will ever be mindful of his Covenant.

Again; Our Saviour with the Rainbow about his Head, appears before his Father, as well as unto his People. The Eternal Father is the God of our JESUS, he is in Covenant with him. Our JESUS is the Head of the Covenant which is made for the People of God; it is made with him. Our Saviour presents himself before God, as the Mediator of the Covenant. He pleads the Cause of his Church; he pleads for its Preservation. We are sure of that; Heb. 9. 24. He is gone into Heaven it self, now to appear in the Presence of God for us. This Angel with the Rainbow, if he who took not on him the Nature of Angels, and he who is above all Angels, may be ever call'd an Angel; he is the Angel of the Covenant; and I will add, he is the Angel of his Presence. In the Presence of the Eternal Father, he makes this Demand; "O my Father, my Father; the Church which I have dy'd for, it must not be lost; Oh! let it live Eternally!"

Lastly, The People of God, they mind him of his Covenant; they point him to his own Rainbow. They are a Praying People. Because they see a Rainbow about the Throne of Heaven, this emboldens them to approach the Throne; they come with Boldness unto it, as a Throne of Grace. They lay hold on all the Promises. The Cry of their incessant Prayer to God is that, Jer. 14. 21. O remember, break not thy Covenant with us. They are a People that also wait upon God in the Sacraments of his Covenant. By attending on the Sacraments, they celebrate the Covenant of God; they solicit for the performance of it. Yea, when they see those Commemorations of the Covenant in the Churches of the Lord, they lift up their Hearts unto him; O thou Great God, who keepest Covenant and Mercy, remember thy Covenant of Mercy to thy People!

And,

And, I hope, the View of the Rainbow will now more than ever, have the like Improvement with them. The glorious Hearer of Prayer will take notice of it.

I will proceed, Secondly, to set before you some Articles in the Covenant of Mercy to the Church, which are declar'd and confirm'd unto us, by the Rainbow about the Head of our merciful Saviour. Be the Times never so Cloudy, and the Floods never so boisterous, never so mountainous, the Church of God has the Expectations of the Rainbow to live upon.

They are such as these.

First, The Church cannot be drown'd. The Church of God may read that Motto on the Rainbow; Jer. 46. 28. *I will not make a full end of thee.* Our Saviour will always have a Church, yea, a Visible Church in the World. Tho it may fly, for some Ages, into the Valleys of Piémont, yet even there it shall be Visible. No Flood shall utterly swallow it up. A number of People visibly embracing the Truths, and obeying the Laws of the only Saviour, will be always upon the Face of the Earth. We read, Psal. 125. 1. of a Mount Zion, which cannot be remov'd, but abideth for ever. I will not say, this was a Covenant for the literal Mount Zion; for this has been remov'd; the Hill was dug down with a vast Labour of three Years, in the Days of the Maccabaean Simeon. The Jews on certain accounts of Policy, dug down their Zion with their own Hands. But, O Church of our blessed JESUS, thou art that Mount Zion, the most ancient of all the Mountains, the most lasting of all the Hills, eternally Impregnable! No Flood can roll over the Top of the Holy Hill of Zion. There is a word in the BIBLE, which has been as an Ark for the Church of God, in the most Cloudy and Stormy Ages of it; that word, Mat. 16. 18. *I will build my Church, and the Gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.* I incline to think, that our Saviour alludes to what occur'd in the Flood, which once overthrew the Foundations of the Wicked. In that Flood, we read, *The Fountains of the Great Deep were broken up, and, The Waters prevail'd exceedingly upon the Earth; they prevail'd, and the Mountains were covered.* Yet the Family of the Just One perish'd not. Sirs, it will be so! tho the Bars of the Bottomless Pit should be broken up, and should pour out a Flood of Mischiefs on the Church, yet there shall not issue out such

such a Flood from thence, as to drown the Family of our Saviour. The Flood shall not prevail so far, as to drown the Church in the World. Our Lord sits King on the Floods, and sets Bounds to them; they shall not prevail to carry all before them. *Had it not been for this Word*, the Church had been drown'd in the Days of Dioclesian, when he set up his Pillars with this Inscription on them, *Christiana Superstitione Deleta*. Wretch, the Inscription on the Rainbow about the Head of our Saviour, confounded thine! *Had it not been for this Word*, the Church had been drown'd by the Flood, which the Dragon cast out of his Mouth in the Arian Heresies; when, the World sigh'd, that it saw it self become almost entirely Arian. *Had it not been for this Word*, the Church had been drown'd in the Flood of the Romish Apostacy, at the latter end of the Fifteenth Century; when there were left One Little Flock of Taborites in their Caves: and these poor *Speculani* sent four Agents to the several Points of the Compass, to find, if it were possible, any pure Church in the World; and they all return'd with a sorrowful Report, That there was none to be met withal. Were it not for *this Word*, the Grand Assirian of this Day would be Master of Europe, and the Religion of Christ be every where little better of it, than it is in his own Bloody Dominions. But, O thou Monster of Baseness, the Daughter of Zion despises thee! And, O thou Troubler of the Nations, a few Months more shall bring thee down to the Sides of the Pit, and it shall be said by them that consider thee, *Is this the Man that shook the Kingdoms of the Earth?*

In short, the Church of our Saviour must out-live all the Attempts of Earth and Hell against it. The Story of the Church surviving all the Attempts of its Adversaries in the former Ages, is a wonderful Story. The Thred of the Story shall never be broken off! our JESUS will have Subjects, his Bible will have Students, his Spirit will have Temples, let all the Devils in Hell do what they can to defeat such Intentions of Heaven. The Saviour with the Rainbow about his Head, will tread on the Head of the Old Serpent; all the Plots in that bruised Head, shall come to nothing!

Secondly, The most Cloudy Times that pass over the Church of God, have their Mixtures of Mercy, and of Moderation in them. There's a Rainbow; the Clouds of Wrath

Wrath are not so thick, not so spread, but there is a *Sun-shine* of Mercy with them. If the *Floods* rise high; yet not so high, that all shall be cover'd, all overcome. It was a thing propos'd, *Hab. 3. 2. O Lord, revive thy Work in the midst of the Tears, in Wrath remember Mercy.* His Church is his Work. In the midst of the Seventy Years assign'd for the Captivity of the *Jews*, they found a remarkable Favour from the Court of *Babylon*, in what was done to one who represented them there. This reviv'd them in the midst of the Tears: this was Mercy in the midst of Wrath. Indeed things may go very bad with the Church, yet never so bad, but they might be worse. O the amazing Supplies of Grace, which are sent in unto the Church, under its greatest Languishments! There will be at least a little Reviving: what *Exra* of old call'd, *A little Reviving to set up the House of our God.* The Church will find that thing, *Psal. 78. 38. He does not stir up all his Wrath.* The Church will find the Saviour with his *Rainbow*, dealing according to that Word; *I am with thee, I will correct thee in measure: That Word, He stays his rough Wind, in the Day of the East Wind.* The Calamities of the Church have glorious Mitigations.

Thirdly, The Church can't be totally drown'd; the World is: but the Flood of Wickedness, which overspreads the whole World, is going off. We have a sad Account of this wretched World, *1 John 5. 19. The whole World lies in Wickedness.* Alas, the whole World is under that Flood, which we find before the *Old Flood*, and the Cause of it; we ought with unutterable Anguish, to make the Complaint, *Behold, the Earth is corrupt before God, and all Flesh has corrupted his way upon the Earth.* A Flood of Wickedness, has laid Mankind groaning under the Waters. The Exceptions to the Epidemical, the Universal Wickedness of Mankind, are so very few, that we may still complain, *They are all gone aside; they are, together become filthy!* But, my Brethren, it shall not always be so. The Saviour of Mankind shows himself unto us with a *Rainbow* about his Head. It is to inform us, that the Flood of Wickedness, in which the World is at this Day buried, shall one Day be roll'd off. Of the Angel coming down from Heaven with a *Rainbow* on his Head, we read, *He sets his right Foot on the Sea, and his left Foot on the Earth.* Our

Saviour will come to take possession both of the *Sea*, and of the *Earth*. He will possess himself of *Mankind*, both on the *Sea*, and on the *Earth*. He will assert his Dominion both on the *Sea* and the *Earth*. He will chain up the Deceiver of the Nations. But, *how long, O Lord, holy and true, how long e'er thou so come down unto us!* There is a Day a coming, in which, according to the antient Prophecies, *Psal. 22. 27. All the Ends of the World shall turn unto the Lord. And, Psal. 86. 9. All Nations whom thou hast made, shall come and worship before thee, O Lord, and shall glorify thy Name.* Most certainly, there will come a Day when there shall be more godly People, than there are now wicked People in the World. I am certain, God will one Day destroy them that corrupt the *Earth*; we shall see an *Earth* wherein shall dwell Righteousness; it shall be fill'd with righteous ones. The very first time that an *Hallelujah* occurs in the sacred Scriptures, it is on this occasion, *Psal. 104. 35. Let the Sinners be consum'd out of the Earth, and let the Wicked be no more. Hallelujah.* There will come a time, when that great *Hallelujah* shall be heard in the World!

Fourthly, Our great Saviour, the Ruler of the World, aims at the Good of his Church, in all the Changes which he brings upon the World. This is a very turnable World, very changeable. Others besides that King of *Egypt*, the great *Sesostris*, whom our Bible calls by the name of *Shishak*, have seen a *Wheel turning about*. 'Tis a most elegant and expressive *Hieroglyphick*, which our Prophet *Ezekiel* had of it, in his *Vision of the Wheels*. There is a Tradition, that *Pythagoras* invented his from his Acquaintance with *Ezekiel's*, who was his Contemporary. He saw four *Wheels*. Will you give me leave to say, that here is a *Wheel* for each of the four great *Monarchies*? The last of them is now turning apace. Our immortal King is bringing the *Wheel* over that wicked *Empire*. Will you give me leave also to say, that here is a *Wheel* for each of the *Four Quarters* of the World? Then be sure *America* must be concern'd in the turning of the last *Wheel*; and verily, we find it so to our Wonderment. Well, but who has the management of all these *Wheels*? Truly, our Saviour with a *Rainbow* about him. All the *Angels* in Heaven, who have their uncontrollable Influences on human Affairs, are but the Officers

Officers of our Saviour ; they execute his Orders ; they are the Ministers which do his Pleasure. We read how the Wheels are manag'd, Ezek. 1. 26, 28. On the Throne, there was the appearance of a MAN above upon it : [That MAN, 'tis our JESUS, 'tis our JESUS ! we know 'tis he !] It follows ; As the Appearance of the Bow that is in the Cloud in the Day of Rain ; [The RAINBOW !] so was the Appearance of the Brightness round about. From our JESUS on the Throne, we are now so advertis'd ; " I remember my Covenant for you ; and in all the Turns which I bring upon the World, I am fulfilling of it ! "

This is he, whom the Disciple that Jesus loved, had his Allowance to look upon !

But may we also at this Day, be allow'd and advanc'd unto a View of that glorious One ! Yea, O People highly favour'd of the Lord, unto you does the Saviour with a Rainbow about his Head, give that glorious Call : " Behold me, behold me, O my People ; behold, and believe my Remembrance of my Covenant, in all the Cloudy Times that are passing over you. "

We are fallen into a Day, whereof we may say, what we read, Zech. 1. 15. It is a Day of Trouble, and of Distress, a Day of Clouds and of thick Darkness. Yea, 'tis a Day wherein the People of God have their Fears, Lest the Waters overwhelm us, lest the proud Waters go over our Soul. In the midst of these Clouds our Saviour appears to us, with a Rainbow about his Head.

And the first thing with which I would animate my Brethren, is, That he is our Head, and we may safely trust him with our All. On that Passage, Eccles. 2. 14. A wise Man's Eyes are in his Head ; I remember two of the ancient Gregories, both a Greek one and a Latin one, have a devout Gloss ; which is rather an Allusion than an Exposition : our glorious Christ is our Head ; and say they, in him we have our Eyes. This I may very reasonably say, O Church of the Lord, thy Eyes are in thy Head, even in that Head which has the Rainbow about it. His Eyes will be on the Look-out for thy Welfare ; he will see to the fulfilling of all that his Covenant has engag'd for thee.

What tho there be dismal Clouds ! the Clouds gather, look very dismally, 'tis true : But, of thy Saviour, thou hast been told, Behold, he cometh with Clouds !

I will go on to say; 'tis a dreadful thing unto good Men, to see such a *Death* upon all that is good in the World. Every thing lies *Dead*; *Zeal*, 'tis *Dead*; *Love*, 'tis *Cold* and *Dead*; the *Life of Religion* is gone. A *publick Spirit*, 'tis *Dead*; the *Success of the Gospel* seems *Dead*. *Churches*, oh! how *Cadaverous* are they? What *Putrefactions* in them! O ye *Witnesses of the Lord*, you also are either *Dead*, or at least have not got off your *Grave-Clothes*. And yet, *this* may the rather be the time for a *speedy Appearance* of our *Saviour*. It was a *Prediction*, *Mat. 24. 28. Wheresoever the Carcase is, there will the Eagles be gather'd together.* I take it for a *Prediction* of our *Lord's coming* with his *Gospel*, as the *Lightning*, to ruin *Antichrist*, and reform his *People*. The *Church* at this time is to be like a *dead Carcase*; partly so by *Sufferings*; much more so, by *Corruptions*. Our *Saviour* will now come as a *glorious Eagle*; so he did, when he brought his *dead People* from *Egypt* of old. And, because he will use his *mighty Angels* in what he is to do, marvel not, that you hear of *Eagles*, in the *Plural Number*, for it.

And, yet, I judg it not amiss to acquaint you, that there is of late, within these few Years, a most surprising *Revival of good things* in the World. Should I speak of but one *Country*, there are some strict *Observers of the Signs of the Times*, who have lately publish'd a *Collection of observable things*; wherein the *Kingdom of God* has been more sensibly opening it self in the heart of *Germany*; things of an holy and hopeful *Tendency*, to bring on a more ample *Reign of Piety*: the *Collection* contains no fewer than *Fourscore and Four Articles*. In many other *Places*, there are some excellent things a doing. *Essays to do Good*, begin to be in request: They grow more fashionable and reputable. *North-Britain* will become a peculiar *Seat*, and *Example* of them. Among the rest, there is this to be observ'd; A *Spirit of Association* for noble and pious purposes, has of late begun strangely to visit the World; it begins to do wondrously. Some *Societies* perhaps, are yet only laying *Foundations*, for purposes of a more exact *Regulation* hereafter to be built upon. But as far off as in *Switzerland* they propagate upon them; "They annunciate a more illustrious State of the Church of God, that is expell'd in the Conver-

“*sion of Jews and Gentiles.*” These things are the *Rainbows of the Day.*

In the next place, I will freely confess to you, that there is not any one thing at this Day a doing, which I have my Eye more upon, than the *Fate*, and I hope, the approaching *Fall of the Ottoman Empire.* There is a Coincidence of more than as many things, to persuade us, that the *three hundred and ninety odd Years* allotted for the *Turks* to be the *Plagues of the Roman Empire*, expir'd at the late *Peace of Carlowitz.* If that Empire should once fall, what a *Jubilee* would arrive to the poor *Greek Churches!* Oh! let us pray more for them! Yea, the *Jews* as well as the *Greeks* would feel a quickning Energy upon it. Now, a mighty shake seems to be giving unto the *Ottoman Empire.* There are Millions of oppress'd Christians, who begin to see a *Rainbow* in that thing, if God will please to give the Word. If it should be so, that the *Ottoman Empire* be falling, then, then, that *great Trumpet is going to be blown*, which brings on the *Kingdoms of this World*, to be the *Kingdoms of the Lord.*

I have one thing more to say. The *Grandeur of Antichrist* is plainly on a decline: yea, the *Clouds of this Day*, are big with desolating *Thunderbolts*, to be discharg'd upon him. The *twelve hundred and sixty Years* of the *Papacy*, could not commence much later than the year *Four Hundred and Fifty, or Sixty.* All rational Computations conspire to proclaim this, *A great and notable Day of the Lord is at hand; the Day is near, it is near, and it hasteth greatly!* The *Papal Authority* now suffers a marvellous Diminution; it is irrecoverably diminish'd. Its *Bulls* roar very insignificantly. Let it fulminate what it will, People do but *squib* at it. The *Spirit of Persecution*, which wherever 'tis found, is the *Spirit of Antichrist*, it is wondrous to see how 'tis going out of the World; Men grow aham'd of it: they that would fain be at it, yet they also occasionally acknowledg, that it is *contrary to the Spirit of Christianity.* Some that have been most notorious for it, labour mightily to shift off the Charge.

I greatly suspect, that we are fallen into the Period, for the Effusion of the *Vials*, which brings the *last Plagues* on the *Papal Empire:* It looks as if the *first* of them were newly dispens'd, *A Bile on the Earth; a Pestilence on the Inland Parts* of that Empire. I tremble at the *Second*—

But

But they will all be *Rainbows of Hope*, for the pure Worshippers and Followers of the Holy JESUS.

Finally, But must *NEW-ENGLAND* have no part in the *Rainbow*, about him that has hitherto been the *Hope of NEW-ENGLAND*, and the *Saviour thereof in the time of Trouble*? Yea, and tho there is no particular Church but what may be *drowned*, yet, I suppose, 'tis not until it neglect the *Rainbow*, and by overgrown Impiety and Impenitency forget the *Everlasting Covenant*. I confess, we are very Criminal, and all our Crimes have peculiar Aggravations. Yea, there are some very *base People* among us, People who do things that *Pagans* would abhor to do; People who bring a Blemish on all the Country. But yet, first, the Body of the People, are a *sober, honest, well-instructed People*. All *Civil Travellers* who do them Justice, give them this Testimony. Then, there is also scatter'd all over the Country, a Generation of Serious, Prayerful, Watchful *Christians*; many that make no Noise, are the humble Favourites of Heaven, the *Chariots and Horsemen of the Land*, and yet by their Modesty almost *Invisible*. The *Charities* of these *Christians*, especially in this Town, they are going up as *Memorials before God* continually. There is likewise a Set of young *Ministers*, and Candidates for the Ministry, who are full of Goodness; lovely young Men; *Sons of Zion*, comparable to *fine Gold*; *Nazarites*, purer than *Snow*, brighter than *Pearl*; their *Pollishing*, that of *Sapphire*. God grant the *Rainbows* may multiply! O multiply our *Tokens for good*.

I will conclude with saying this thing. Methinks, a *Saviour with a Rainbow about his Head*, should most movingly invite every Sinner to come in unto him. I have read somewhere, a sorrowful Relation of a Man who was a *drowning*, at the very Instant when he saw a *Rainbow* in the Sky before him; whereat he cry'd out, *Hæc Iris, quid mihi proderit, si Ego peream?* "What Advantage to me the *Rainbow* which secures the World from *Drowning*, if now I my self be *Drowned*?" This I will say, O poor Sinner, what Advantage canst thou expect from a *Saviour with a Rainbow about his Head*, if thou despise that Saviour, and provoke him to cast thee off? Wherefore, Oh! hearken to the Voice from the Cloud about the *Glorious High Throne* of our Saviour; *Aw, repenting,*

repenting Soul, I remember my Covenant of Mercy; I am ready to receive thee! Behold his Bow, there are no Arrows in it. But if any of you will go on still in your Trespases, think on that word, Psal. 7. 11, 12, 13. God is angry with the Wicked every Day; if he turn not, he has bent his Bow, and made it ready; he ordains his Arrows against him. Verily, the Clouds about him, will pour down terrible Thunderbolts!

F I N I S.

